




Is there a crisis in the provision of mental health services for children and young people?

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Is there a crisis in the provision of mental health services for children and young people?

- There are definitely challenges at all ages and all points in the system.
- The key challenges are: early recognition of all developmental and mental health needs
- Genuinely multiagency services allowing early recognition of mental health needs throughout childhood
- Genuinely 24/7 cover
- Effective transition



The cycle of opportunity

- Preschool girl / boy with undiagnosed ADHD
- Unsuccessful universal intervention
- Starts school with a demoralised single mother and gets a bad reputation
- Fixed term exclusions and older drug using friends. Lack of mentors and youth workers
- Perceived as 'bad' not vulnerable
- Moved into out of area care after assault by step-father
- Moves to hostel arrested for acquisitive theft, YOS nurse recognises developmental disorder. Diagnosis made but receives custodial sentence
- *Or* sexually assaulted, develops pattern of overdoses, struggles to engage because of distress, developmental needs and lack of supervision
- Returns to own area and presents in crisis

How are CAMHS affected by cuts and reductions in funding?

- Posts are frozen and this does impact on levels of therapeutic work
- A&E departments are pressured and paediatric beds are stretched which impacts on the availability of beds for CAMHS patients
- The T1 services working alongside CAMHS have been cut which impacts on the support given to vulnerable families and adolescents e.g. in relation to early recognition, safe management of distressed children and the management of children on the edge of care or in care

Enhancing the role of schools in delivering mental health services?

- Ensuring that schools receive training and consultation to enable recognition of mood / anxiety disorders and developmental disorders such as ADHD
- Strengthening communication between CAMHS and education and ensuring that confidentiality and consent do not become barriers



Key intervention points

- Appropriate assessments when children and families are struggling with universal assessments
- Training and consultation to education staff that addresses all mental health needs
- Funding and training to services working alongside CAMHS
- Joined up multiagency 24/7 assessments and management
- Seamless pathway into mental health care that extends beyond 18
- Opportunity for service user feedback and the chance to audit against the concordat